

A NEW SPECIES OF *VERNONIA* (ASTERACEAE) FROM SONORA, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Vernonia joyaliae* B. Turner, is described from southern Sonora, México. It belongs to the section *Lepidaploa* (*Paniculatae verae*) of *Vernonia* where it relates to *V. faustiana* (Chapman & Jones) B. Turner.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, *Vernonia*, México, Sonora

Routine identification of Mexican Asteraceae has revealed the following novelty.

*Vernonia joyaliae* B. Turner, *sp. nov.* TYPE: MEXICO. Sonora: Rancho Santa Barbara, R. Cuchijaqui drainage, 27° 06.8' N, 108° 42.2' W, San Felipe Valley, along permanent creek with *Sabal*, ... *Vitex mollis*, with pine-oak forest above, 750-800 m, 17 May 1990, *Elaine Joyal 1465* [with A. Alvarez, C. Smith, & J. Rascon] (HOLOTYPE: ASU!).

*Vernoniae faustianae* (Chapman & Jones) B. Turner similis sed capitulescentia subfasciculata et bracteis involucri valde imbricatis in seriebus 6-8.

Perennial herb to 38 cm high. Stems densely pilose-tomentulose. Leaves alternate, 8-13 cm long, 2.5-3.6 cm wide; petioles 4-10 mm long, pubescent like the stems; blades elliptic-lanceolate, pinuately nervate, softly pilose above and below, densely so at first but with age glabrate, the margins minutely serrulate to entire. Heads 6, arranged in a stiffly erect subfasciculate cyme, the ultimate peduncles tomentulose, 2.5-4.5 cm long. Involucres broadly campanulate, 9-10 mm high, 12-14 mm wide, the bracts numerous, 6-8 seriate, evenly graduate, the apices rigid, acute. Receptacle plane. Florets 30-40 per head; corolla (only one present) purple, ca. 9 mm long. The lobes linear-lanceolate, ca. 3

mm long. Achenes cylindric, 8-10 ribbed, sparsely hispid-pilose, the pappus of ca. 40 persistent white inner bristles in a single row, these ca. 10 mm long, and an outer series of scales ca. 0.5 mm long.

*Vernonia joyaliae* is a very distinct species, having no obvious close relations. It appears to belong to the section *Lepidaploa* (*Paniculatae verae*) of *Vernonia*, in which Chapman & Jones (1978) included four taxa. Among these, *Vernonia faustiana* appears to be nearest *V. joyaliae*. They share similar habits, heads, and achenes, but the latter species has a much stricter, fewer headed capitulescence, and more markedly graduate involucreal bracts.

It is a pleasure to name this plant for its primary collector, Elaine Joyal, collections manager at the Arizona State University herbarium.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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#### LITERATURE CITED

- Chapman, G.C. & S.B. Jones. 1978. Biosystematics of the Texanae *Vernonias* (*Vernonieae*: *Compositae*). *Sida* 7:264-281.